

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 656

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William E. "Ted" Blevins,
Sr. of Hawkins County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of William E. "Ted" Blevins, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blevins was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Ted Blevins, Sr. served with acumen and alacrity as principal at Swift High School in Rogersville for ten years, in which position he earned the respect of his students and colleagues alike for his exemplary leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his tenure as principal, he worked as an administrator, teacher, and coach over the course of thirty-seven years in Hawkins, Greene, and Hancock Counties in Tennessee and Woodruff County in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, a staunch champion of education, Mr. Blevins held an Associates of Arts degree from Swift Memorial Junior College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Tennessee State University in Nashville, and completed graduate work in Administration and Supervision at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Ted Blevins, Sr. was involved in many community activities throughout his life, serving as a three-term member and Alderman for the Rogersville City Council; a member of the Rogersville Housing Authority, the Rogersville Parks and Recreation Board, the Board of Directors of Helping Hands, and Reliable Products of Hawkins County; a building member of the Hawkins County Senior Citizens and Library Board; and the past vice president of the Hawkins County Retired Teachers Association; and

WHEREAS, he also gave much of his time to various organizations as a thirty-third degree Mason and the Past Master of the Holston Lodge #320; past member of the Universal

Lodge #239, Star of Zion #256 OES, Smith Consistory #187, Lane Chapter #16 Royal Arch Mason, Lane Commandery #24 Knights of Templar, Hasan Shrine Temple #150; and past Deputy of District #16; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his lifelong service, Mr. Blevins was named the 1983 Mason of the Year by the Prince Hall Masons in the State of Tennessee and later served as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons from 1991-1999; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blevins was an active and devout member of the Hasson Street Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, which he served faithfully for many years as deacon, trustee, adult bible teacher, and moderator; and

WHEREAS, Ted Blevins, Sr. was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, a loving and faithful family man, he was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Blevins; his wife, Cecile Sue Francisco, with whom he enjoyed sixty-four blessed years of marriage; and his daughter, Barbara Sue Smith; and

WHEREAS, his memory will be cherished by his surviving children, Vivian Isom and Bill Blevins, Jr. and his wife, Joann; his son-in-law, John H. Smith, Sr.; his eleven grandchildren; his twenty-four great-grandchildren; his seven great-great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives, friends, and church family; and

WHEREAS, Ted Blevins, Sr. leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of William E. "Ted" Blevins, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Blevins.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.